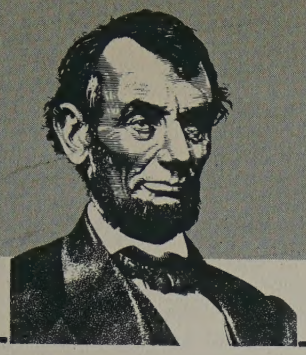

Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
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LINCOLN'S SECOND INAUGURAL

A Gala Event In Washington Society

PART II. THE INAUGURAL BALL

Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Welles, did not want to attend the Inaugural Ball on Monday evening, March 6, even though the weather continued to be fine after the deluge on Saturday. He confided in his *Diary* that "Seward has sent me a request to attend and Dennison desires it. I have no desire to go, but my family have, as well as my associates."

In the meantime the newly inaugurated president was attending to minute social details in regard to the affair. On Sunday, March 5, he penned a letter to the speaker of the House, Schuyler Colfax: "I should be pleased for you to accompany us to-morrow evening at ten o'clock on a visit of half an hour to the Inaugeral (sic) ball. I inclose a ticket." On the same date he sent the following letter to Senator Sumner; "I should be pleased for you to accompany us tomorrow evening at ten o'clock, on a visit of half an hour to the Inaugeral (sic) ball. I inclose a ticket. Our carriage will call for you at half past nine." This was the second, but not the last time that Lincoln would misspell "inaugural."

Apparently Senator Sumner did not know that Lincoln expected a *respondez sil vous plait* and he did not acknowledge the invitation. So Lincoln wrote Sumner again on March 6, that: "Unless you send me word to the contrary, I shall this evening call with my carriage at your house to take you with me to the Inauguration Ball." One authority has stated that these notes with "all their gentle courtesy," had a hint of a royal command.

The public appearance of Charles Sumner in the company of the president would cause a buzz of excitement. It was generally supposed that since Sumner's successful fight against Lincoln's reconstruction plan he would be *persona non grata* at the White House. This was Lincoln's way of making a public demonstration that there was no political breach between them.

While a majority of the people who came to see the president inaugurated on Saturday had left Washington by special trains, several thousand stayed over to attend the grand ball on Monday. New arrivals to the city, with their Saratoga trunks, were frequent and all looked forward to a gala affair.

In the interest of economy the ball was held at the Patent Office which occupied a newly constructed part of the Department of the Interior building. Major B. B. French who headed the supervisory committee favored the use of the new hall in the north wing of the building rather than the construction of a temporary building for the affair. So the Great Hall of the Patent Office was designated as the ballroom. The supper room was located in the Model Hall in the west wing and tables for three or four hundred were placed in the passage ways between the exhibit cases.

The ballroom was decorated with flags. Shields of the various army corps were also displayed. Flags of all the nations, especially those of Mexico, Brazil and the South American republics were hung at the west end of the hall. While the blue and white marble tile floor was beautiful, it was feared that its rough surface would make dancing quite difficult. Balconies were erected for the bands and seats and lines of gas jets were placed around the ballroom. On the north side was a raised platform, with two armchairs, richly gilded, for the president and Mrs. Lincoln, and small blue and gold sofas for their suite. The members of the cabinet had seats reserved for them on the dias. This richly decorated platform presented a regal appearance, and the gas jets suspended from the ceiling illuminated the dias most brilliantly.

Never before had an inaugural ball been presented with so many favorable physical facilities. In addition to the magnificent ballroom there was a supper room, a promenade hall and a series of apartments for refreshment rooms, dressing rooms, retirement rooms, cloak rooms, etc. Then, too, the opportunity for dress display was most favorable in such spacious and brilliantly lighted halls. The gas lights easily revealed that evening to the fashion-minded that "corn colored and lilac silks" were in especial favor that season.

The managers of the ball had made their arrangements on a thoughtful and lavish scale. There were three bands. Lillie's Finley Hospital Band played military music until ten o'clock for the couples in the promenade. Professor William Winters, Jr., the orchestra conductor at Ford's Theatre, provided the music for the dancing. He received one thousand dollars for forty pieces for the evening. Lancers, waltzes, schottisches and polkas drew great crowds to the unresilient marble tiles of the ballroom until dancing was almost impossible. The band of the 9th Veteran's Reserve Corps played in the supper room.

The dancing commenced shortly before ten o'clock. Between ten and eleven o'clock the military band struck up "Hail to the Chief" which indicated the arrival of President Lincoln and his party. Having promenaded the entire length of the room a way was provided through the crowd to the dias and the distinguished party were introduced by two of the managers, Messrs. Clephane and French. The president came in accompanied by Speaker Colfax, and Mrs. Lincoln was escorted by Senator Sumner. Secretary Seward was accompanied by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Frederick W. Seward, Secretary Usher by Mrs. Usher, and Senator Wilson by Mrs. Wilson.

The dias was now the center of attraction during the time that the presidential party was in the ballroom and the dancers were obliged to give way to the movement of the crowd in that direction.

Mrs. Lincoln, according to the newspaper reporters, was dressed in admirable taste. She wore a silk skirt and bodice, with an elaborately worked white lace dress over the silk skirt. Her dress was trimmed with a bertha of point lace and puffs of silk. She carried a white fan trimmed with ermine and silvered spangles along with white kid gloves and a lace handkerchief. Her jewelry consisted of a necklace, bracelet and earrings of pearl. Her hair was tightly brushed back from her forehead, and her headdress was composed of a wreath of white jessamine and purple violets.

Mme. Demorest's *Illustrated Monthly* for April 1865

carried an article in its "Mirror of Fashions" entitled "The Inauguration Ball." With a professional and technical eye Mrs. Lincoln's gown was described as follows: "Mrs. Lincoln's (gown) consisted of white satin with an elegant white lace flounce, festooned at the side with heavy, white silk cord and tassels. A bertha of point lace ornamented the low neck, and a costly point lace shawl covered her shoulders. Her hair was worn in curls and adorned with white and purple flowers, pearl necklace and ornaments, bouquet and violets."

The reporter for *Demorest's* was particularly impressed with the inauguration ball and the comment was made that, "the scene impressed us as being fully equal to the more ceremonial, but not more striking, pagents of the old world. The toilettes were, many of them, magnificent." Both *Demorest's* and the Washington *Evening Star* (March 7, 1865) devoted lengthy paragraphs to the fashionable dresses that were worn that evening.

It was generally conceded by observers that the women from New York were the best dressed, with Washington dividing honors with Philadelphia for first place in the beauty department. The fashion parade was not without eccentric array. A Miss Stoops appeared as a Goddess of Liberty, wearing a liberty cap and a spangled skirt.

The president appeared in his usual black suit, with white kid gloves.

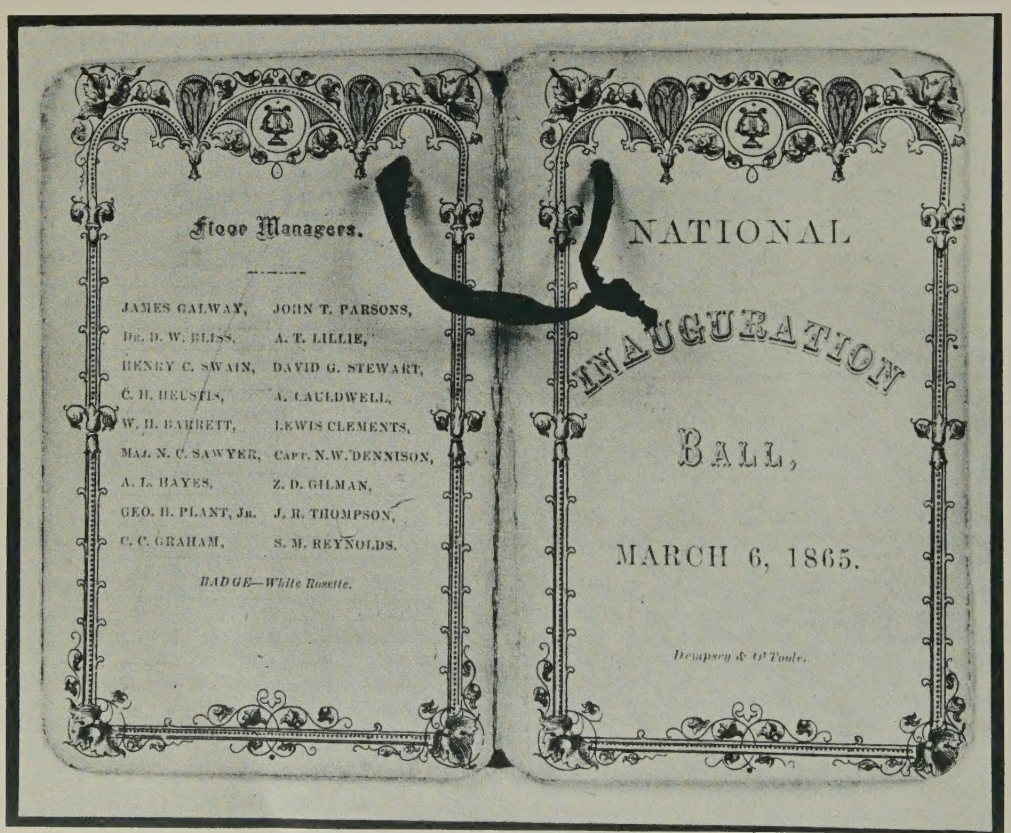
There were many distinguished personages attending the inaugural ball. Members of the cabinet present were Secretaries Seward, Welles, Dennison, Usher and Speed. There was also a considerable representation of the diplomatic corps. Some of the army officers attending were Generals Halleck, Banks and Hooker (who escorted Miss Chase, daughter of Chief Justice Chase). Admiral Farragut was the top ranking naval officer in attendance. Many other military men of lesser rank were present. Captain Robert Lincoln of Grant's staff, back from Petersburg, was there a considerable portion of the evening. He escorted the beautiful daughter of Senator Harlan. Perhaps the most dashing military person was Lieutenant Cushing of the Navy, whose torpedo exploits made him a center of interest by all those present.

Among the notable citizens were "Long John" Wentworth (grown stout as well as long), and George Francis Train whose wife was, in the opinion of many, the best dressed woman in the ballroom. Train was described as having increased his bulk lately "despite his restless career." Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth, the novelist was also present, accompanied by her son, a talented young student enrolled at New York University.

Up to twelve o'clock a crowd of people continued to pour into the rooms. To the hour of midnight all present had conducted themselves in the most proper decorum. However, a change of scene was to take place shortly after the presidential party was escorted to the supper room. Once they were seated at the head of the table the doors were thrown open for the assemblage at large. Before the hungry thousands arrived the supper tables appeared very attractive as well as appetizing.

The tables were 250 feet in length and they contained G. A. Balzer's monuments of the confectioner's art which were the crowning glory of the feast. Mr. Balzer, the caterer, had the Gargantuan assignment of feeding over four thousand people. He prepared a menu (see illustration) comprising of beef, veal, poultry, game, smoked meats, terrapin, oysters, salads, jellies, ices, tarts, cakes, fruit, nuts, coffee and chocolate. Mr. Balzer was ably assisted by T. M. Harvey of oyster renown, who superintended the myriad preparations of oysters served on this occasion.

The center ornament of the table was a mammoth sugar model of the capitol with all the details of construction including statuary and gas lamps. Its supporting pedestal featured scenes of Fort Sumter, the Revolution of 1776, the Progress of Civilization and the Year 1865. The monument of confection toward the head of


Floor Managers.
JAMES GALWAY, JOHN T. PARSONS,
Dr. D. W. BLISS, A. T. LILLIE,
HENRY C. SWAIN, DAVID G. STEWART,
C. H. HEUSTIS, A. CAULDWELL,
W. H. BARRETT, LEWIS CLEMENTS,
MAJ. N. C. SAWYER, CAPT. N.W. DENNISON,
A. L. HAYES, Z. D. GILMAN,
GEO. H. PLANT, JR. J. R. THOMPSON,
C. C. GRAHAM, S. M. REYNOLDS.
BADGE—White Rosette.
NATIONAL
INAUGURATION
BALL,
MARCH 6, 1865.
Dempsey & O'Toole.

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

This dance program was obtained by Dr. and Mrs. Sandford Hoag, residents of Washington, D. C. Dr. Hoag was a practicing physician in the capital city and he and his wife attended the Inaugural Ball shortly after their marriage.

ORDER OF DANCING
National Inauguration March

Composed expressly for the occasion.

1. Quadrille—Catharina ..... B. Bilse
2. Lancers—Horse Guards ..... Julien
3. Waltz and Galop—Kathleen Mavourneen and Corsaires ..... Labitzky and D. Albert
4. Quadrille—Sylvester ..... Ab. Leutner
5. Schottische and Varsovienne—Josephine and Amelia ..... Ab. Leutner
6. Lancers—Farvenia ..... Ab. Leutner
7. Polka redowa and Waltz—Celest and Medora ..... Ab. Leutner
8. Quadrille—Luxus ..... Ab. Leutner
9. Lancers—Capitol ..... Ab. Leutner
10. Waltz and Polka—Canary Bird and Jeannie ..... Wm. Withers, Jr.
11. Quadrille—Frei Kugeln ..... Von Weber
12. Danish Polka and Galop—Danish and Ledernier mo. ..... Labitzky
13. Lancers—Bon-ton ..... Labitzky
14. Waltz and Schottishche—Die Presburger and Josephine ..... Labitzky
15. Quadrille, (Basket)—Popular Airs .....
16. Polka redowa and Varsovienne—Charlotte and Louise .....
17. Lancers—Washington .....
18. Galop and Waltz—Die Provinzhalen and Emma .....
19. Quadrille—Faust ..... Gounod
20. Lancers—Cavalry .....
21. Virginia Reel—Break Down .....

The order of dancing for the National Inaugural Ball, March 6, 1865.

the table paid tribute to the army. This work had six sculptured devices which "included a combat between infantry and cavalry, and a mounted general with his field glasses in active use." Other sculptured scenes depicted the capture of batteries and field artillery by infantry and a quiet and well-illustrated camp scene. The army monument also was surmounted by three crests upon which were eagles bearing in their beaks significant mottoes. One bore a quotation of the president: "We shall nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope of the human race (sic)." Upon the pedestal beneath were photographs of Lincoln, Halleck, Sherman, Grant, Thomas and Porter.

The piece of confection to the left of the center was in honor of the navy, and was surmounted by Vice Admiral Farragut's flag-ship, the *Hartford*, riding upon a tempestuous sea, and a representation of the Admiral, tied to the mast, and beneath it were six devices: "a minature representation of Fort Sumter, insignia of naval warfare, cannon, flags and an anchor, Liberty with triumphant mien beckoning naval heroes onward and upward, a jolly tar in full rig, Neptune driving his chariot with trident in hand, and the insignia of the Coast Survey."

The mad rush to the tables was frightful to behold, and only for a moment did the confectionery monuments appear in their full perfection. Had there not been immense reserves of food provided by the supper committee they could have not met the demand. The caterer had planned to serve only three hundred people at one time, but all of the more than four thousand guests were determined to be among those first served. A correspondent of the Washington *Evening Star* reporting on the affair in the March 7, 1865 issue stated that, "Numbers who could not find immediate room at the tables, colonized in the numerous alcoves, where they were catered for by some of their number, who, with more audacity than good taste could be seen snatching whole *pates*, chickens, legs of veal, halves of turkies, ornamental pyramids, etc. from the tables and bearing them aloft over the heads of the shuddering crowd, (ladies especially, with greasy ruin to their dresses impending) carrying them off in triumph for private delectation."

The correspondent continued: "The floor of the supper room was soon sticky, pasty and oily with wasted confections, mashed cake and debris of fowl and meat. The alcove appropriaters of eatables from the tables left their plates upon the floor after a free and easy sort, miscellaneously or in chance piles, adding to the difficulty of location and gentlemen, in conscientiously giving a wide berth to a lady's skirt not infrequently steered clear of Scylla only to fall upon a Charybdis of greasy crockery." Noah Brooks in his work, "Washington In Lincoln's Time" stated that the revelers enacted a scene . . . whose wildness was similar to some of the antics of the Paris commune." Margaret Leech in her book "Reveille In Washington 1860-1865" related how "a confectionery Ship of State was carried away in fragments," and how "one young lady triumphantly bore aloft an entire sugar horse." The one masterpiece that was saved was the model of the capital. It was removed before the charge of the revelers and was preserved from destruction.

Lincoln and his group left the supper room unnoticed. The presidential party was escorted between exhibit

BILL OF FARE

OF THE

Presidential Inauguration Ball

IN THE

CITY OF WASHINGTON, D. C.,

On the 6th of March 1865.

Oyster Stews ..... Croquant .....
Terrapin ..... Chocolate .....
Oysters, pickled ..... Tree Cakes .....

BEEF.
Roast Beef .....
Filet de Beef .....
Beef à-la-mode .....
Beef à l'anglais .....

VEAL.
Leg of Veal .....
Fricandeau .....
Veal Malakoff .....

POULTRY.
Roast Turkey .....
Boned " .....
Roast Chicken .....
Grouse, boned and roast .....

GAME.
Pheasant .....
Quail .....
Venison .....

PATETES.
Patête of Duck en gelée .....
Patête de fois gras .....

SMOKED.
Ham .....
Tongue en gelée .....
do plain .....

SALADES.
Chicken .....
Lobster .....

Ornamental Pyramides.
Nougate .....
Orange .....
Caramel with Fancy Cream Candy
Cocoanut .....
Macaroon .....

CAKES AND TARTS.
Almond Sponge .....
Belle Alliance .....
Dame Blanche .....
Macaroon Tart .....
Tart à la Nelson .....
Tarte à l'Orleans .....
do à la Portugaise .....
do à la Vienne .....
Pound Cake .....
Sponge Cake .....
Lady Cake .....
Fancy small Cakes .....

JELLIES AND CREAMS.
Calfsfoot and Wine Jelly .....
Charlotte à la Russe .....
do do Vanilla .....
Blanc Mangue .....
Crème Neapolitane .....
do à la Nelson .....
do Chateaubriand .....
do à la Smyrna .....
do do Nesselrode .....
Bombe à la Vanilla .....

ICE CREAM.
Vanilla .....
Lemon .....
White Coffee .....
Chocolate .....
Burnt Almonds .....
Maraschino .....

FRUIT ICES.
Strawberry .....
Orange .....
Lemon .....

DESSERT.
Grapes, Almonds, Raisins, &c.

Coffee and Chocolate.

Furnished by G. A. BALZER, Confectioner,
Cor. 9th & D Sts., Washington, D. C.

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

G. A. Balzer's "Bill of Fare" for the Inaugural Ball. This menu was acquired from Mrs. A. G. Burton of Long Beach, California, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Sandford Hoag of Washington, D. C.

cases, through alcoves, and finally upstairs to a balcony from whence they followed a narrow passage way to a little used side door.

Finally everyone of the four thousand present had eaten their fill or their "ten dollars worth" and they proceeded back to the ballroom, and the dance and promenade were resumed. Many an elegant dress that evening had received its donation of whipped cream, and many a dainty slipper was soiled by the crushed sweets and greasy meats that lay among the fragments of glass and tableware upon the floor.

President Lincoln and his party left the ball about one o'clock, however a great many other distinguished guests and some not so distinguished, remained for several hours, and the rooms did not thin out until the morning hour was well advanced. The inaugural ball was a financial success. Tickets to the affair were sold at ten dollars which admitted a gentleman and two ladies. There was no extra charge for the elegant supper. Up to nine o'clock in the evening the managers were not sure of a paying success. But by ten o'clock the surge of arrivals showed that it was not only a social success but a great financial success. After all the expenses were paid, the proceeds were devoted to the aid of soldiers' families.

Washington, D. C. also had its traffic problems in 1865. The departing guests left the Patent Office by the south front. To provide the proper illumination powerful gas lights (from reflectors) "threw a glare for many squares in every direction." Hacks were assembled near the building "by the acre" and as far as the eye could reach. A humorous story was current that when one gentleman inquired for his carriage by number he was informed that his vehicle was somewhere in the vicinity of the Treasury Department, and that it might be able to work its way up to the Patent Office in the course of the forenoon.

The *New York Herald* of March 7, 1865 in reporting on the inaugural ball called it a "republican ball" but added that "the ladies of Washington called it "a Yankee ball" and the aristocracy looked down upon it as a "shoddy" affair. Perhaps the aristocrats had southern antecedents and were still living in the past.

(Continued from February, 1959, issue)

LINCOLN'S SECOND INAUGURAL

The Reception (Part I)

As the guests passed by the president they were directed to the East Room, where a Marine band played constantly. The East Room became jammed with men and women whose only exit was a window. This rude, unceremonious exist was a disappointment tó many socially minded guests. There was no chance to show or see dresses, no chance to converse with friends, no chance to meet those who were socially prominent.

At eleven o'clock the outside door of the White House was closed, with hundreds still unable to obtain admittance. Shortly before twelve o'clock the band played "Yankee Doodle" and the rooms were rapidly cleared. The newly inaugurated president was thoroughly worn out. He went to his rooms and immediately disrobed, and officers who visited him after the reception in regard to military matters found him *en dishabille*. It was reported that the White House staff determined then and there that thereafter the receptions where to be more exclusive, and that admission tickets would be issued for all future social occasions.

POPULAR VOTE

In the 1860 presidential election Abraham Lincoln received 39.87 percent of the total popular vote. In 1864 Lincoln received 55.09 percent of the total popular vote.

"Lincoln was the only president who never served as either a governor, a United States senator, a cabinet minister, a vice-president, or a general before entering the White House."

Holman Hamilton: *White House Images & Realities*, University of Florida Press 1958, Page 12.

A PRESIDENTIAL PATENT

Among the registered patents in the Patent Office at Washington is one for buoying vessels through shallow waters, taken out some years ago by Abraham Lincoln, of Springfield, Illinois.

The method is by the employment of air-chambers constructed on the principle of a bellows, and distended or contracted by ropes, as the depth of water may require. It was by a somewhat similar scheme, on a larger scale, that it was once proposed to bring the *Great Eastern* through the East River to a dock.

The inventor, Mr. Lincoln, has not had the satisfaction of seeing his patent in use on the Mississippi or its tributaries.

But it has fallen to his lot to be in command of a ship of uncommon burden on a voyage of uncommon danger. It devolves upon him to navigate the ship of state through shallows of unprecedented peril, and over flats of unparalleled extent. The difficulty is how to prevent her grounding and becoming a wreck.

We trust that the President will set the fashion of using his own patent.

He must throw some of his cargo overboard, and buoy up his craft on all sides. He need not change his voyage, or sail for a strange port. But unless he can set his air-chambers at work so as to dimish the draught of his vessel—in a word, unless he can increase her buoyancy, and bring more of her hull into God's daylight, he will run no small risk of losing her altogether.

Harper's Weekly
April 6, 1861

FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS

The Lincoln National Life Foundation has moved to a new temporary location. Since 1929 operations have centered on the fourth floor of the home office building of The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. However with the construction of a new seven story annex and a nine story tower, the present fourth floor is to fall under the wrecker's hammer.

The Foundation's great collection of Lincolniana and related materials will be housed in the home office basement. About forty percent of the basic reference material and collateral works will be placed in storage. The nine thousand volumes of Lincolniana, along with the clippings, magazine articles, manuscripts, photographs and broadsides will be made available for research.

It is hoped that by 1960 the new museum quarters on the first floor will be ready for occupancy. The plans call for a large museum room, flanked by separate rooms which will constitute office space, a rare book room, library alcove, study rooms, microfilm reading room and work rooms. Likewise certain basement rooms will be allocated to the Foundation for the housing of reference and secondary materials.

Once the new quarters are occupied adequate facilities for displaying the collection will be possible. Revolving exhibits are now being planned for display which will stress the chronology of the Lincoln story as well as the historic events of seasonable interest.

As construction work continues the subscribers of *Lincoln Lore* will be informed as to our progress and the bulletin will carry pictures, diagrams and charts which will help you visualize our new building and Foundation headquarters.

LINCOLN STAMPS

The Republic of Honduras will release on February 12, a special set of twenty-four airmail stamps and two souvenir sheets of stamps to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. Other foreign countries that have issued Lincoln stamps are Cuba, San Marino, Monaco and the Republic of Indonesia.

The United States Post Office Department will issue three new Lincoln stamps in 1959, a 1-cent commemorative on February 12, a 3-cent commemorative on February 27 and a 4-cent commemorative on May 30.